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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 814
By Turner (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Garrett Hines upon winning a Silver Medal in the four-man bobsled event at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games and for becoming one of the first African American males from the U.S. to win a medal at the Winter Olympic Games.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those citizens who, through their determination, ability, and endurance, have distinguished themselves as champions in the realm of international athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic athlete is Garrett Hines, who won a Silver Medal in the 4-man bobsled event at the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Games and, along with his teammate Randy Jones, earned the distinction of being one of the first African American males from the U.S. to medal in the history of the Winter Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, their win in the 4-man bobsled competition is also exceptional in that traditionally the bobsled event has been dominated by European Champions; Garret Hines and his fellow teammates' victory has led the U.S. Olympic Team to capture America's first Olympic medal in the men's bobsled event in nearly 50 years; and

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WHEREAS, a native of Chicago, Mr. Hines was raised in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, excelling in academics as well as sports, he earned a degree in Biological Science at Southern Illinois University, where he played football and ran track; and

WHEREAS, compelled to serve his country, Garrett Hines joined the United States Army Reserves; an Army Medical Specialist, he admirably serves at the rank of First Lieutenant and will be promoted to the rank of Captain this summer; he was honored as the Armed Forces Athlete of the Year in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hines was first introduced to the sport of bobsled shortly after graduating from college, when he attended a bobsled tryout camp in 1992; and

WHEREAS, through his hard work and commitment to excellence, he quickly developed into one of the best brakemen in bobsled competition; at the Nagano 1998 Winter Olympic Games, as the brakeman for Brian Shimer, driver of USA 1, he finished 10th in the 2-man bobsled event and fifth in the 4-man bobsled event, only .02 seconds short of a bronze medal and achieving the best finish by an American team since 1956; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his incredible talent and strength, Garrett Hines won the 2000 Brakeman Push Championships and placed fourth in the 4-man bobsled competition at the 2000 World Championships with driver Brian Shimer and 6th in the 2-man bobsled competition with driver Todd Hays; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, he reached the very pinnacle of his sport and his athletic career, claiming fourth place in the 2-man bobsled race and the Silver Medal in the 4-man bobsled race at the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Hines is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Ileana Hines; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of those exemplary individuals who serve as excellent role models of the value of hard work, diligence, dedication, and composure under pressure; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Garrett Hines upon winning the Silver Medal at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in the four-man bobsled event and becoming one of the first African American males to win a medal in the Winter Olympic Games, recognize his determination, exceptional skill, and innate talent, congratulate him on his many significant athletic and personal achievements, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.